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Fall Creek National Recreation Trail

Willamette National Forest

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United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region

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Part of the pleasure in experiencing Fall Creek Trail is the drive to the trailhead. You will travel through a portion of the picturesque Willamette River Valley, along busy Fall Creek Reservoir, and then along Fall Creek. The 14-mile trail, located approximately 30 miles southeast of Eugene, is readily accessible from Forest Road 18. To reach the lower trailhead take Hwy. 58, 15 miles from Eugene to Lowell. Go north 2 miles to Unity junction and take Road 18 (Fall Creek Road) 11 miles to Dolly Varden Campground. The trailhead is located just south of Dolly Varden Campground across Fall Creek. Other trailhead access points are located off Road 18 in Bedrock Campground and on Road 1828. The trail terminates on Road 1833.

With the ease of access and proximity to the Eugene-Springfield area, the Fall Creek National Recreation Trail is in demand for short day hikes as well as longer overnight trips. The trail elevation ranges from 960 feet to 1,385 feet, making it accessible year-around.

You may choose to stay overnight in a variety of locations, including Dolly Varden and Bedrock Campgrounds and dispersed sites near the trail and stream.

Lush vegetation abounds at Fall Creek.

The major attraction along the trail is Fall Creek, which is within viewing distance of the trail for most of the 14 miles. You will pass many deep pools, some whitewater, many rock outcrops, and countless small side streams. There are numerous opportunities to stop for a refreshing swim or to angle for the elusive rainbow or cutthroat trout.

Towering old-growth Douglas-fir

Along the Way

You will find a variety of vegetation along the Fall Creek National Recreation Trail. Large second-growth and old-growth Douglas-fir predominate with an understory mixture of shrubs and various hardwoods, including vine maple, bigleaf maple, dogwood, and red alder. Wildflowers abound in the spring and vibrant colors in the fall.

The Marine Creek Old-Growth Grove, located west of Marine Creek at the upper end of the trail, is a dense stand of old-growth Douglas-fir with a mixture of western hemlock and western redcedar. This 51-acre stand is about 300-500 years old, with an average tree diameter of 40 inches.

Clark Creek Organization Camp

A short side trip will take you to the Clark Creek Organization Camp, located 1 mile east of Big Pool Campground. Constructed in the 1930's, Clark Creek Organization Camp contains a log picnic shelter, several rustic cedar sleeping shelters, a chapel, and a ball field. Reservations are required; contact the Lowell Ranger Station for reservation information. Please respect the rights of any group occupying the site.

Clark Creek Nature Trail

Clark Creek Nature Trail is located adjacent to Clark Creek Organization Camp. This 1.1-mile nature trail features 34 interpretive stations depicting information about the forest ecosystem. A teacher's guide is available for school groups.

Clark Butte Trail

This challenging 2.2-mile trail begins off the Clark Creek Nature Trail. Traveling through old growth, second growth, and young trees, it is a low-elevation trail open year-around.

Johnny Creek Nature Trail

Johnny Creek Nature Trail, located off Road 1821, provides an excellent interpretive opportunity for the physically disabled. This .5-mile trail is paved with a wide, smooth tread, and the interpretive signs (as seen above) are designed for the visually impaired to be able to touch read. Wheelchair-accessible restroom facilities and a picnic table are available as well as a large parking area for buses.

Jones Trail

This 5.8-mile trail joins the Fall Creek National Recreation Trail three-fourths of a mile east of Bedrock Campground. It traverses to the north through the Bedrock-Slick Creek Dispersed Nonmotorized Recreation-Timber area.

Leave No Trace

Do not smoke while hiking. Stop at a safe spot and completely put out your cigarette before leaving.

Campfires should be constructed only in existing fire-rings. Do not bury your campfire with dirt as it may smolder and break out later. Carefully extinguish your fire with water.

Please do not cut trees, or collect plants or wildflowers within 200 feet of the trail.

Please pack out your litter.

Walk softly on the land and leave no trace.

The Fall Creek National Recreation Trail is closed to pack saddle stock and motorized vehicles. For more information, please contact the:

Lowell Ranger Station
Lowell, OR 97452
Phone: (503) 937-2129

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